

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

GRIEU et al.

Serial No. Unknown

Filed: April 6, 2001

Atty. Ref.: 677-22

Group:

Examiner:

#3 Pre.
a
Marsha
6/12/01For: METHOD FOR EXCHANGING DATA BETWEEN AN AUTOMATIC DISPENSER
AND A MICROCIRCUIT CARD

* * * * *

April 6, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination,
please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously
presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

*Sub
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3/ (Amended) The method of claim 1, in which conditional debiting of the card is also
subordinate to a time delay elapsing since the preceding operation of putting the flag into the
non-ratified state.

JJ
4/ (Amended) The method of claim 1, in which conditional debiting of the card is also
subordinate to the machine performing the current transaction belonging to a group to which the
machine that performed the preceding transaction also belongs.